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SCIENCE

A Weekly Journal devoted to the Advancement of Science, publishing the official notices and proceedings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, edited by J. McKeen Cattell and published every Friday by

THE SCIENCE PRESS

11 Liberty St., Utica, N. Y. Garrison, N. Y.

New York City: Grand Central Terminal

Single Copies, 15 Cts. Annual Subscription, \$6.00

Entered as second-class matter January 21, 1922, at the Post Office at Utica, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

VOL. LV

MARCH 31, 1922

No. 1422

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DEDICATION OF THE NORMAN BRIDGE LABORATORY OF PHYSICS OF THE CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

PRESENTATION BY NORMAN BRIDGE

THIS is one of a series of pleasant occasions that have attended the growth and metamorphosis of this school for nearly a third of a century.

Each one has marked some accession of value in its progress from a small affair with varied aims and moderate ambitions, to a concentration of effort on the most ambitious plans for the selection and excellence of the few. Sometimes the acquisition has been a material one, as of buildings, grounds and tools; sometimes it has been spiritual and intellectual. To-day we welcome both forms.

The changes in the institution have come through a process of elimination of the casual and easy—designed for the many; and of the engraving upon it of the more difficult, the more costly—and ultimately the more potent, for the few who can measure up to its requirements.

And the most telling addition of all has been the deliberate movement toward systematic research—otherwise the search for additions to the knowledge of the world.

We are gathered here to take note of the latest material addition to the equipment, as well as the latest spiritual and intellectual accession. This laboratory is undoubtedly a long step toward an ideal outfit for teaching, and for the research that is in the greatest demand at this time. But no man can guess what new facilities will be needed within a few years, for novel lines of research not now even thought of.

The growth of knowledge comes step by step; sometimes the steps are short, frequent, and strictly progressive; at other times they